

Meeting held at the Town Hall, S. Albans, May 11th,  
1896, 8 o'clock p.m.

Present—The Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance, M.A., in the chair; the Revs. Canon Davys, and H. Fowler, Hon. Secs., Messrs. S. Flint Clarkson, W. Page, F. Trevor Davys, W. R. L. Lowe, W. J. Hardy, F. Kinneir Tarte, F. W. Silvester, H. R. Wilton Hall, and other members and friends. The Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed. The Rev. Canon Davys announced the unanimous election of Lord Aldenham, F.S.A., as President, in succession to the late Earl of Verulam; he read Lord Aldenham's letter of acceptance. The announcement was received with acclamation.

The following were elected Ordinary Members (after nomination by the Committee,) F. Wallen, Esq., of "Bricketts," Watford, proposed by Mr. Silvester, and seconded by Mr. Fowler; John Rider, Esq., Victoria Street, S. Albans, proposed by Mr. Page, and seconded by the Chairman.

The audited Balance Sheet for 1895 was read by the Chairman, and accepted.

The Chairman announced that the Transactions of 1893 and 1894 had been printed for circulation.

Mr. W. Page, F.S.A., one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Committee for the proposed County Museum, gave information respecting the general objects of the Scheme, and the progress which had been made in arranging a Temporary Museum in rooms kindly lent by Mr. R. W. Ellis, Market Place, S. Albans. Mr. R. T. Andrews, of Hertford, expressed his interest in the County Museum Scheme, and promised his hearty support. Mr. F. Silvester moved the following resolution:—"That this Society desires to express satisfaction, that the first steps have been taken towards the foundation of a County Museum, and congratulates the Committee and the Secretaries on the progress already made."

This was unanimously adopted.

Mr. S. Flint Clarkson, F.R.I.B.A., being called upon by the Chairman, delivered his Notes on "The Gateway of the Pemberton Almshouses," illustrating the subject with detailed drawings, which he had prepared, specimens of the bricks, a diagram of the Brass of Roger Pemberton, the Founder, and a chart of the relationships of the chief members of the family. He remarked on the Architectural features of the interior of a house reputed to be the Pemberton Mansion. He also criticised the popular story referring to the terminal spike of the Almshouses Gateway. Mr. Fowler called attention to some documentary evidence, showing that Sir Francis Pemberton was practising as a conveyancing Barrister at S. Albans in 1673.

Mr. H. R. Wilton Hall then read a paper entitled, "Notes and Memoranda on some Hertfordshire Churches at the beginning of this century." He also exhibited copies, made by himself, of diagrams and sketches produced by Mr. Pridmore, schoolmaster of Tewin, *c.* 1797, in illustration of his descriptions contained in six volumes, now in possession of the Hon. Baron Dimsdale.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the readers on the proposal of Mr. Toulmin, and seconded by Canon Davys, who offered some interesting comments. The meeting then became conversational. The drawings and other objects of interest were examined.

S. FLINT CLARKSON.

Cassiobury, 16th June, 1896.

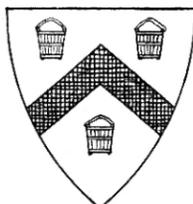
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### The Gateway at the Pemberton Almshouses, St. Albans.

BY MR. S. FLINT CLARKSON, F.R.I.B.A.

The gateway is certainly very charming—quite perfect in its way. It is well proportioned in itself, and in relation to the six little one-storied dwellings to which it leads. The bulky piers give restfulness, and the unadorned simplicity has now-a-days a special charm. The sunken road is a happy accident. The bank demanded retaining walls, which, as they rise above the

PEDIGREE † OF THE FAMILY OF PEMBERTON IN CONNECTION WITH S. ALBANS.



Arms of Pemberton—*Arg.*, a chevron between 3 buckets, sa. hooped & handled or.—From the Presbytery of Abbey Church S. Albans—for Rafe P., one of the Trustees for the Reparation Fund, A.D. 1683.

SIR GODDARD PEMBERTON, Knt

of S. Albans, Lord of Manor of Shelton, in pars. of Wootton and Marston-Morteyne, Co. Beds, Sheriff of Herts, 1615, & died same year.

Lewis P., Esqr. **ROGER PEMBERTON** = Elizabeth. Robert P. = Raphael P. = Marie Coningsby. daug. = Francis Kempe. daug. = Nicholas Cockett. daug. = Jeremy Odell.  
 Sheriff of Herts, 1615 d. before 1620. Settled in S. Albans before 1560 m. 14 Dec. 1601. Eldest d. of Sir Richd. Lee, Kt.

Founder of Almshouses b. 1555—Sheriff of Herts 1620 d. 13 Nov. 1627, burd. at St. Peter's Ch., S. Albans.

Robert d. 1560 ba. 19 Mar. 1560 d. 1561  
 Randall ba. 1560 d. 1561  
 Jaune d. 1561  
 Alice ba. 1565  
 Margaret d. 1567  
 Marie = Robert Rawlinson ba. 1567

John d. 1578  
 Florence d. 1578  
 Ellen d. 1578—(year of pestilence)

Ralph P. = 1. Frances born, c 1580 M.P. for S. Albans, 1629 Mayor, 1627 & 1638 burd. at S. Peter's, 11 Oct. 1644.  
 = 2. Anne (burd. 13 May, 1658.)

Robert = Susan  
 John = Katherine ba. 15 Dec. 1583  
 Elizabeth d. in infancy

Katherine = Thos. Noke m. 1636, at S. Peter's  
 \* Robert = 1. Anne, 2. Mary

Elizabeth  
 Tecla = Robert Wolley  
 Hellen  
 Elizabeth  
 Katherine

Anne, ba. 1629 d. before 1646  
 Elizabeth  
 Frances  
 Anne b. 5 Sep. 1646

SIR FRANCIS PEMBERTON, Knt. = Anne Whichcote. Rafe P. = Anne  
 ba. 18 July, 1624. d. 10 June, 1697 ba. 1626.  
 Trustee for Abbey Repar. Fund, 1683 Robert, ba. 1682

Francis Jeremy Ralph Anne = Geo. Scott. Mary = Dr. Wm. Stanley Elizabeth = Nathaniel Stephens. Jane

\* Robert P. = 1. Anne d. 1666 = 2. Mary

Elizabeth ba. 1659  
 John = Robert ba. 1661 bur. 1663  
 William ba. 1661  
 Roger ba. 1663  
 Anne ba. 1664 bur. 24 Oct. 1665  
 Katherine ba. 11 Oct. 1666  
 Mary ba. June 22, 1667  
 Robert ba. 1668  
 Steven ba. 12 Dec. bur. 16 Dec. 1669  
 Hanna ba. 1672  
 Maria ba. 1672  
 Steven ba. 1674  
 Sarah ba. 1675  
 Roger ba. 1676

Robert P., A.B. = Anne Haselden, of Goldington, Beds.  
 b. 1692, d. 1732. Resided in par. of Wootton, bur. in Church there (see monumental inscription).

1 daug. and 2 sons

Rev. John P. = Judith of Cardington Co. Beds b. 1724, d. 14 May, 1795, bur. at S. Peter's, S. Albans.

N.B.—Compiled from Old Register of Parish of S. Alban, ‡ The Will of Roger Pemberton, (proved, 5 Dec. 1627), and the County Histories.

† Partly tentative.

‡ Edited by W. Brigg, Esq., B.A., in the "Herts Genealogist."

Anne Pemberton d. Oct. 5, 1787, buried at S. Peter's, S. Albans.



heads of passers-by, suggest privacy without seclusion. As nothing discordant has been done for some time, there is the appearance of genuine antiquity. All the colouring is in harmony; and, with the exception of a few bricks replaced and of the terminals at the top, the gateway, as we see it, is very much as it was in the 17th century.

The brickwork is of smaller bricks than those we are using at the present time in the neighbourhood; their size being  $8\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ins. by  $2\frac{3}{8}$ ins. The splayed and shaped bricks of jambs, impost, copings, and strings were brought into the forms we see by cutting bricks already burnt. They lent themselves to this not ill-naturedly, the weakened bricks cracked only when specially exposed.

This mention of cut bricks may lead to the mention of the original cut-brick terminals, over the centre and at the sides of the gateway. An elevation to a large scale has been prepared, showing the present condition of everything. It is evident that the upper portions of the terminals are missing. The tender pieces of brick, flayed on their outer surfaces, imperfectly cemented together, and placed where specially exposed, probably needed repair after they had been standing half-a-century. They no doubt crumbled away before their condition was observed; and no attempt was made to replace them.

But the general form and the details of the almshouses, erected in memory of Thomas Saunders, at Flamstead, in 1669, were evidently influenced by the previously-erected Pemberton Almshouses, whose founder died in 1627, leaving money for the purpose, and the task of erecting them to his son. The inscription on the stone panel over the gateway is—

These Six Almshouses were Erected and Endowed  
with five pounds per annum each  
Out of the Manor of Shelton in Bedfordshire  
By Roger Pemberton, of St. Albans, Esquire  
Who was bury'd in the Church of St. Peter,  
Nov. 20, 1627.

The Flamstead Almshouses are thus about forty years younger, and the gable terminals, which melted away at St. Albans, are in sound condition now at Flamstead. Perhaps the model was improved upon, the jointing being more carefully arranged, and the mortar better.

If the buildings were erected without any intention to

repeat the form and details of the earlier building, the resemblance must be considered very singular. The general form and the materials are similar (bricks at Flamstead,  $8\frac{1}{4}$  ins. by 4ins. by 2ins). The chimney stacks are almost identical in plan, rectangles placed on the angle and connected; these at Flamstead retain the old caps. There is the same treatment of the eaves; each has a necking, a band, a large brick ovolo, and well projected tiles above. The doorways at both places have semi-circular heads; are all very small and almost exactly the same size. There are medallions over the doorways at Flamstead, but not at St. Albans. The windows are similar. At the Pemberton Almshouses the original gable courses have disappeared except at the gateway, but those which remain are practically the same at both places.

These things being so, and the terminals at Flamstead being exactly what might be looked for, I have ventured to show similar terminals on a second drawing of the Pemberton Gateway, and to ask you to believe that what I have shown represents the original finish.

#### THE PEMBERTON FAMILY.

We know that there was a Randall Pemmerton born in St. Albans in 1560, and doubtless we shall know the names of many 16th and 17th century Pembertons as time goes on. It is clear that the family was fairly represented in St. Albans in the 16th century. We may yet learn also what members of the family came from Lancashire. Pemberton, in the parish of Wigan, between Wigan and Ormskirk, is named as the place from which the southern migration took place. "Pemberton" is the first railway station after leaving Wigan for Liverpool, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Line. In the inscription on Sir Francis Pemberton's monument at Highgate is the statement:—

" Ex antiquâ Pembertonorum Prosapiâ  
In Com. Palat, Lancastriæ oriundo."

Sir Goddard Pemberton, Knt., was apparently the first of the family of any note; he was sheriff of Herts in 1615, and died the same year.

Roger Pemberton was born in 1555. He arranged for the erection of our almshouses in his will of 1624, and made further provisions in a codicil apparently signed on his deathbed, for it was dated Nov. 7th, 1627, and he died on Nov. 13th, and on Nov. 20th was buried in St. Peter's Church. By the kindness of Mr. Harding, who has taken so keen an interest in the St. Peter's charities, I have had opportunities for studying Roger Pemberton's will. His fairly prosperous state as an owner of property, his feeling towards family and friends, and his general good intentions are evident. There are besides touches of self-revelation and of self-pity; so that, for a formal legal document, it has a very human character.

#### BRASSES AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

A zealous friend has made for me a careful rubbing of the portions of the memorials of Roger Pemberton and his family which remain at St. Peter's Church; and I can thus make clear what Chauncy saw and recorded in his book, published in 1700. Roger's figure is 17½in. high, and his wife Elizabeth is also 17½in. high; each figure on a separate plate. The inscription under these figures has been lost, but Chauncy printed it thus:—

“Here lieth Roger Pemberton, Esq., some time High Sheriff of this County, who by his last Will ordained six alms-houses to be built near this Church for six poor Widows; and hath given out of his manor of Shelton, in the County of Bedford, thirtie pounds per annum for their maintenance; to whose pious memory Elizabeth, his loving wife, and Ralph Pemberton, their dutyful son, mayor of this towne, executors of his last will, have dedicated this Remembrance. He lived well, and departed this life the 13th of November, 1627, in the 72nd year of his age Here now his body rests in expectation of a joyfull resurrection.”

A small brass 12in. broad and 12in. high, contains effigies of sons and daughters, and an inscription.

#### SIR FRANCIS PEMBERTON.

Ralph, the eldest of the sons, was Mayor in 1627, when as “dutyful son” he prepared the brass in remembrance of his father. He was Mayor again in 1638; discharged other public duties here; and was buried at St. Peter's, Oct. 11th, 1644.

Francis, the son of Ralph, we all recognise as illustrious enough to reflect distinction upon the whole family, who are not known beyond town and county except through him. He was born, July 18th, 1624. The entry in the Abbey Register is "Francis, sonne of Mr. Rafe Pemberton, by Francis, his wyfe." He was thus four months old when his grandfather made his will—giving "to each of my grandchildren, Ellen Woolley, and the three Elizabeth Pembertons, one hoope ring of pure gould, of the vallew of thirtie shillings a peece, with this poesie to be engraven therein (Feare God)." He was three-and-a-half years old when his grandfather signed the codicil, without naming him—although his year-old brother Raphe was provided for in it. This Ralph was, in 1683, one of the Trustees of the Reparation Fund for the Abbey Church; and his arms appear in the Presbytery. Francis was at the Grammar School (about six years old) in 1630; was called to the Bar at 29; Sergeant-at-Law at 49; Knight-Sergeant at 50; Judge of Queen's Bench at 54; dismissed the next year (1680) for serving Justice rather than the Government; Chief Justice of King's Bench, 1681; again removed to make way for a supple tool; Chief Justice of Common Pleas at 59. He tried and condemned Lord William Russell, but was dismissed for his moderation, and Jeffreys was appointed in order that Algernon Sidney might, without doubt, be condemned. In his diary for October 4th, 1683, John Evelyn wrote: "At this time Lord Chief Justice Pemberton was displaced. He was held to be the most learned of the Judges, and an honest man. Sir Geo. Jefferies was advanc'd, reputed to be the most ignorant, but most daring." Pemberton resumed practice as counsel; defended the Bishops in 1688, and secured their acquittal, and honour from the nation—expressed for all time in the vigorous often-quoted language of Macaulay. He married Anne Whichcote, had seven children by her, and died June 10th, 1697.

Chauncy was Pemberton's contemporary. Though a few years his junior [Pemberton 1624-1697; Chauncy 1632, Sergeant-at-Law, 1688, 1719], he probably knew Francis Pemberton well. There is warmth of personal feeling in the estimate of him, something more even than

the recognition of the virtues of a recently-deceased Hertfordshire Worthy:—

“He was endowed with a ready Wit, and a quick apprehension, which were attended with a rare memory and excellent parts, by the help of which and his own indefatigable Industry, he attained to a great perfection of Judgment in the Laws of the Land. . . . He would not suffer any Lawyers upon Tryals before him, to interrupt or banter Witnesses in their Evidence a practice too frequently used by some counsel in bad causes to stifle truth and obstruct justice, but allowed every Person liberty to recollect his thoughts, and to speak without Fear, that the Truth might be better discovered. . . . No temptations of Profit or Preferment, no Threats, no Menaces of deprivation nor loss of place nor Honour, could move him to Act anything against the Law.”

#### SURVIVAL OF THE FAMILY.

One would like to believe that the St. Albans Pembertons entered into their third century here: and that the Anne Pemberton, who died October 5th, 1787, and was buried at St. Peter's, was a descendant of Roger Pemberton. Her memorial stone is on the site of the destroyed N. Transept. She was the daughter of John and Judith Pemberton, late of Cardington, Beds; the mother died eight years later, and was buried in the south aisle of the Church.

#### THE TRADITION ABOUT AN ARROW.

The iron terminal now over the centre of the gateway was put up when the brick terminal decayed. The rage for metal terminals without number, which was very strong early in this generation, has somewhat abated; but it springs eternal in some human breasts, and we may live to see it rampant again. The terminal over the gateway rises 21 inches above the brick-work at present. Rough sinkings were made in the bricks in order to receive it. The shaft, now showing about 16 inches of its length, was originally a full half-inch square, but has been rusty for long years, and in parts is now like a circular pencil—less than a quarter of an inch in

diameter. At the top of the shaft is a pyramid  $1\frac{1}{8}$  ins. square at the bottom, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ins. high. The spike terminal is thus a pointed lump of iron at the top of a thin rod.

It is quite easy to believe that this terminal, put up in innocence by someone thinking of nothing at all—is mainly responsible for the story of Roger Pemberton accidentally killing an old woman with an arrow, and founding these almshouses in remembrance of the accident. The story had probably been passed about orally in the last century; Bayley thought it mature enough for print in 1808. In Vol. 7 of "Beauties of England and Wales" we may accordingly read, "Over the gate of the little court before the almshouses is an arrow, or short spear-head, stuck upright in the brickwork; and the tradition of the place is that the founder shot a widow with an arrow by accident, and built the almshouses by way of atonement." Clutterbuck, of course, did not mention the subject. F. L. Williams (1822) copied Bayley word for word; and the statement has been repeated, apparently without examination, or the expectation that anyone would believe it. As usual, there has been development in the way of details and embellishments. The story apparently became more piquant when Roger Pemberton was represented as disappointed of sport, shooting in the air at random, and killing an unseen unfortunate woman engaged in gathering sticks behind a hedge, the bolt striking her in its descent. Mr. Foster ("Tourist's Herts," 1891), merely mentioned "the worthless tradition" (page 42). It was thus reserved for the recently published "Murray" (1894), to state as a fact, without qualifying the remark, that "opposite the church are some almshouses for aged widows, founded by Roger Pemberton, who accidentally shot an old woman gathering sticks in the forest. There is an iron arrow over the gateway."

I am afraid this statement in Murray led to these notes being put before you. When the so called arrow breaks off, and is placed in the museum, it will doubtless be merely labelled "terminal spike"—unless it should then be thought desirable to keep well in mind so noteworthy a local example of, and warning against, the development of traditions.

## ARCHBISHOP ABBOT.

So many things are possible however, that the "worthless tradition" *may* have been in existence before the iron terminal was put up.

George Abbot's career up to a certain point was remarkably successful;—he had risen to the head of his profession from humble beginnings. His father was a weaver and cloth worker at Guildford; and the place of the archbishop's birth in 1562 was, till 1864, one of the objects of interest in that town, where his memory is held in honour. In 1609 he was made Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry; a month after he was promoted to London, and succeeded Bancroft as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1611. There were difficulties before; but his great misfortune was the killing of Peter Hawkins, one of Lord Zouch's keepers, with a barbed arrow on July 24th, 1621, while shooting in Bramshill Park at deer with a cross-bow. James stood by him; but a Commission was considered necessary, began its sittings in October, and gave a halting decision. A formal pardon or dispensation from the King was dated December 24th, 1621—five months after the accident.

His career, the details of the mishap, the Commission and its report, and Abbot's present and future position were doubtless long talked over in most of the parishes in the kingdom. The size and style of the hospital built by him at Guildford—his native place—would naturally be mentioned with appreciation again and again. Even a modern critical visitor, spending leisurely hours within its walls and quadrangle, and enjoying prospects from the roof of its tower, may be willing to apply to himself the inscription at the entrance—"Deus nobis hæc otia fecit."

Roger Pemberton and George Abbot were contemporaries. Pemberton was the elder by seven years, and he died six years before Abbot. He made his will November 30th, 1624—three years after Abbot's mishap. But his intention as to almshouses was not new; the wording of the will is;—

"And whereas I have had a desire and determination for many years past, to erect and found an almshouse or houses for six poore widowes to inhabit and dwell in, and for that purpose have purchased a close or meadowe

of pasture in Bowgate in the parish of St. Peters in the towne of St. Albans aforesaid in my owne and my sonne Ralph's name to us and our heirs and assigns to build the same thereon; which if I shall not performe my selfe in my life time, then I doe will and require my executors, and my will is that they shall build or cause to be built in the same close or some parte thereof, sixe sufficient roomes of brick or stones for six poore old widdowes to inhabit therein, and the same to continew and bee an almshouse for ever, with sixe convenient garden plotts to be severed from the same close and added unto the same roomes for the use of the same widdowes; to bee walled with a wall of bricks and stones and each garden to bee devided one from the other with a very sufficient pale."

Thus what Abbot had done and what Pemberton intended, would be discussed by the populace at the same time.

No candid person has ever accused Abbot of a desire to set himself right by providing for alms-people. Speaker Onslow put the case very sympathetically,—

"The Archbishop himself" [he meant that his brother Robert, Bishop of Salisbury, had died in 1617, and Anne of Denmark in 1619] "began also to grow infirm [aged 57], and finding himself less fit for the affairs of the world than he had been, resolved, while he had still strength, to enter upon a great and good design, which he had long meditated as a testimony of affection to his native town of Guildford, where, on the fifth of April, 1619, he laid the first stone of his hospital." There is interesting glass in the hospital made for the place and dated 1621. All was evidently well forward by June 20th, 1623, when James granted the Charter. Still Abbot's ideas expanded as he went on, and he did not consider that he had brought everything into its final form even when he made his will in 1632. He then wrote: "Touching the hospital erected by me in Guildford, where I was born, and my parents of good memory long inhabited, I have finished the main building, and if there be anything of decency or ornament convenient to be added thereto, if God permit me life [he died in 1633] I shall accomplish these also."





THE PEMBERTON ALMS-HOUSES, ST. ALBANS.  
EAST SIDE OF THE GATEWAY, 1897.

S. FLINT-CLARKSON  
MENS & DEL.



THE PEMBERTON ALMS-HOUSES, ST. ALBANS.  
EAST SIDE OF THE GATEWAY, AS IT WAS ORIGINALLY.

S. FLINT CLARKSON  
MEMS. & DEL.



## STARTING "A WORTHLESS TRADITION."

Ralph Pemberton was chosen Mayor of St. Albans September 21st, 1627, about two months before the death of his father, Roger Pemberton. The inscription on the memorial brass showed that it was prepared during the year of mayoralty—that is with a becoming promptness. It is thus not improbable that he also carried out his father's wishes as to the almshouses without delay, and completed them ready for the reception of the almspeople about August 17th, 1629, when Abbot finished the Statutes for his hospital.

Such concurrence of events might permit anyone, having a wish that way, to suggest that the two founders might have been talked of in St. Albans in the same breath; and possibly to go a step further, and hint that Archbishop Abbot's mishap might by chance have had something to do with the tradition as to Roger Pemberton, since ignorance and gossip, with or without malice, are responsible for so much.

## FURTHER WORK.

The St. Albans Pembertons afford a fresh subject; but in putting together notes about them there is a sense of skating over thin ice. Happily, there is promise\* of much trustworthy information about them. The Pembertons of Pemberton; the migration to St. Albans; the members, connection, residences and possessions of the family, and many other subjects, will then call for persevering labours.

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